

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I write to seek your approval for an extension for the report from the Independent Panel consulting on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea. You had asked us to report to you by 30 September 2023. We are seeking your approval to deliver the report by 31 October 2023.

The volume and range of input received in the consultation process and commissioned work is such that we are unable to complete our analysis and recommendations in the original timeframe. We believe it is important to fully consider the input received, finalise consultations and weigh submissions and commissioned consultancies.

Since 3 March 2023, the panel has met with a range of stakeholders. This has included producers, processors, export-related businesses, trading partners, and animal welfare organisations among other stakeholders.

We have had active and respectful engagement through the consultation process. We received over 800 written submissions, over 3,300 survey responses and had over 2,000 people attend our 14 face-to-face meetings held in regional WA and Perth. We have travelled to regional WA and Perth on four separate occasions. Our most recent visit in the week of 21 August 2023 involved further targeted meetings to test what we have heard from stakeholders about priority actions and implementation arrangements.

We expect the additional time to complete the analysis and drafting of the report will strengthen our advice to you. We are confident that we can finalise the report by this new date.



Phillip Glyde

Panel Chair

25 August 2023

Independent Panel consulting on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea
C/- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858, CANBERRA ACT 2601
livesheep.phaseout@aff.gov.au



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-900435

Mr Phillip Glyde
Panel Chair
Independent Panel Consulting on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea

C/- livesheep.phaseout@aff.gov.au

Dear Mr Glyde

Phillip

Thank you for your correspondence dated 25 August 2023 seeking an extension to provide me with the final report from the Independent Panel consulting on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

I would like to thank the Independent Panel for its engagement with a breadth of stakeholders and the significant amount of work that has gone into considering and analysing the large number of submissions that have been provided from across the Australian community during your consultations. I also acknowledge the volume of meetings the Independent Panel has held with a broad range of stakeholders. I acknowledge the complexity of the task based on the information you have received and appreciate that it is important that the advice you provide is appropriately informed and robust.

To ensure you have sufficient time to fully consider the input received I agree to an extension to deliver the report to me by 25 October 2023. I wish you all the best in finalising your deliberations and look forward to receiving the Panel's report and recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

15 / 9 / 2023